

STERICALLY HINDERED POLY(ETHYLENE GLYCOL) ALKANOIC ACIDS AND  
DERIVATIVES THEREOF

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides a sterically hindered polymer that comprises a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer backbone having at least one terminus covalently bonded to an alkanolic acid or alkanolic acid derivative, wherein the carbon adjacent to the  
5 carbonyl group of the acid or acid derivative group has an alkyl or aryl group pendent thereto. The steric effects of the alkyl or aryl group allow greater control of the hydrolytic stability of polymer derivatives. The polymer backbone may be poly(ethylene glycol).